

ABSTRACT

A system and method for improved audio controls on a personal computer is provided. The system and method provide
5 a unified architecture for audio controls across hardware and software interfaces of the personal computer. An intelligent facility may automatically change audio controls for users to simply interact with various communications and media applications. To this end, a configurable audio controller
10 intelligently handles various aspects of the system's audio devices by following various rules that may be based at least in part on user-configurable settings and a current operating state. The present invention also provides audio controls so that a user may easily change audio settings such as the
15 volume of an audio output device. There are many applications that may use the present invention for automatic control of audio devices based upon the user's context.